THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • MARCH 09, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

AUS PM SOAKS IN THE HOLI SPIRIT IN GUJARAT

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (right) takes part in Holi celebrations at Raj Bhavan in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, hours after he landed in the city on a four-day trip to India. He will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Friday. Before that, he will watch the first day of the fourth Test between India and Australia at Motera Stadium with Modi on Thursday | PTI | P10

NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Bold Steps to bring Sweeping Changes in Higher Education
• Karnataka is the first state to implement the National Education Policy 2020.
• A total of 7 new universities have been established in Bidar, Haveri, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Bagalkote, Kodagu and Koppal.
• Steps have been taken to upgrade 7 engineering colleges on the IIT model.
• Implemented the Integrated University and College Management System (UUCMS) to bring academic and administrative quality and transparency in higher educational institutions.
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Karnataka Information

BJP's outreach to Motha with Tripura interlocutor

Look who is with NDA in Nagaland

NCP chief Sharad Pawar has accepted the proposal of party's Nagaland MLAs to join the Neiphiu Rio government, though there is no indication from the BJP-NDPP ruling coalition to accommodate any opposition party. The NCP had the best performance among the opposition, winning seven seats. After listening to the party's Northeast in-charge, Pawar accepted the leadership of Rio, the party said.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

WITH the Centre offering to appoint an interlocutor to examine TIPRA Motha's demand for a "constitutional solution" to the issues and problems of Tripura's 14 lakh tribals, the party on Wednesday agreed to extend issue-based support to the Manik Saha-led government in the state.

Though the BJP left three ministerial berths vacant when the new government was sworn in — in anticipation of the TIPRA Motha's induction — Motha chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma said he would first examine what the Centre comes up with and "if it is to our satisfaction, we will consider it when the time comes."

"We have been assured that an interlocutor will be appointed and the solution to our constitutional demand initiated within the next few days. We expect something positive within three months," Debbarma told *TNIE*. The assurance on the interlocutor was made during a meeting Union home minister Amit Shah had with Debbarma. BJP president J P Nadda, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Tripura counterpart Manik Saha were present.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Manik Saha after he took oath as Tripura Chief Minister | PTI

"We have remained united and committed and have not discussed anything for our personal positions but the plight of 14 lakh people who live in (TIPRA Motha-ruled) TTAADC (Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council) areas," the royal scion said.

The BJP has already rejected the demand for "Greater Tipraland" statehood. Asked what exactly TIPRA Motha is demanding, he said, "Let this (constitutional solution) be decided by the interlocutor."

Earlier in the day, Saha took his oath of office as the chief minister for the second time in less than a year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah, Nadda and the chief ministers of Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony.

Eight others were sworn in as ministers: Ratan Lal Nath, Pranajit Singh Roy, Santana Chakma, Sushanta Chowdhury, Tinku Roy, Bikash Debbarma, Sudhangshu Das and Sukla Charan Noatia. Roy, Debbarma, Das and Noatia are new faces. Chakma is the only woman in the ministry. Noatia is from BJP ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura's (IPFT).

Foreign tourists celebrate Holi in front of Virupaksha Temple in Hampi on Wednesday | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

HAMPI SOAKS IN MYRIAD OF COLOURS

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

A large number of tourists participated in the Holi festival here on Wednesday. The celebrations were devoid of the usual cultural extravaganza in the past three years because of the pandemic. The festival is usually celebrated in front of Virupaksha Temple. This year, nearly 300 foreign tourists participated in the celebrations. Local guides, photographers and vendors also joined the tourists in celebrating Holi.

The celebrations began in the morning after rituals were performed at the temple. "A large number of foreign tourists are in Hampi this time for Holi. The festival is celebrated in a grand manner and Hampi Holi is famous in South India," said a tourist guide. P7

EXPRESS INTAKE

Cabinet to simplify royalty collections for quarries | P4

BRS MLC Kavitha may skip ED summons | P7

ISRO receives Indo-US developed NISAR satellite | P10

Rohit 'rubbishes' Shastri's claims of complacency | P15

Virupakshappa episode embarrassed govt: Minister

ENS @Bengaluru

LAW and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy on Wednesday admitted that the Lokayukta raid on Channagiri MLA Madal Virupakshappa's son Prashanth and seizure of Rs 8 crore is an embarrassment to the state government.

The BJP issued a notice to Virupakshappa on Wednesday, seeking his explanation.

"True it is an embarrassment. We cannot deny it," he told reporters after the cabinet meeting. On Prashanth, BWSSB chief accounts officer, not being suspended despite being sent to judicial custody, Madhuswamy said he knew nothing about it. "I do not know. But if he is behind the bars for more than 48 hours, then action should be taken. I will ask the BWSSB to do so," he said.

On the Congress and the Advocates' Association of Bengaluru expressing concern over the High Court granting anticipatory bail to Virupakshappa, he refused to comment.

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance
G20
Plan Your LIFETIME GUARANTEED MONTHLY INCOME NOW with our Enhanced Annuity Rates
Annuity can start after minimum deferment period of One Year.
2 YEARS
4 YEARS
6 YEARS
LIC's NEW JEEVAN SHANTI
UIN-512N338V04 • Plan No. 858
A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Single Premium, Deferred Annuity Plan
12 YEARS
MAXIMUM DEFERMENT PERIOD for Annuity plan
Also Available Online
Fixed Annuity Rates from inception of Policy
Multiple Annuity options
Increasing Death Benefit during deferment period
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474
Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
LIC/P1/2022-23/23/Eng
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.